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CAPITOL PATENT & TRADEMARK LAW FIRM, PLLC
P.O. BOX 1995
VIENNA, VA 22183

EXAMINER

RAMPURIA, SHARAD K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/815,797	Applicant(s) CALIN ET AL.	
	Examiner SHARAD RAMPURIA	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8-12, 16-20, 22-23, 27-29, 33-37, 41-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by **Bonta** [US 6014565 A].

As per claim 1, Bonta teaches:

A method for setting a number of base stations that can be considered hand-off base stations (i.e. Abstract, Col.4; 33-40) comprising the steps of:

Measuring real-time traffic flow criteria associated with one or more base stations; setting a number of base stations that can be considered hand-off base stations, from a neighbor list of potential hand-off base stations, depending on the measured traffic flow. (e.g. A variety of criteria may be used to determine how many BTSs having the first successful connections, may be used. The simulations performed for application of the third, or "first pass" algorithm, may be repeated under various load conditions in order to further prune or enhance the handover neighbor list. This approach will provide handover coverage for the substantial majority of situations which may possibly be encountered in a radiotelephone system. In addition, this

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approach allows for interference variables to be considered, thus eliminating marginal neighboring BTSs from being added to the handover neighbor list. Moreover, simulations may be performed using a variety of traffic channels assigned to a source BTS, again, to eliminate marginal neighboring BTSs, or to identify frequency planning problems that may impact selection of neighboring BTSs for the handover neighbor list and subsequent call quality; Col.10; 21-40)

As per claims 3, 22, Bonta teaches the method as in claims 1, 20, respectively, further comprising the step of maintaining an initial neighbor list and generating an adaptable neighbor list of potential hand-off base stations based on traffic flows. (e.g. Col.10; 21-40)

As per claims 4, 23, Bonta teach the method as in claims 1, 20, respectively, further comprising setting the size of the adaptable neighbor list without requiring human intervention. (e.g., Col.9; 31-51).

As per claims 8, 27, Bonta teaches:

The method as in claims 1, 20, respectively, further comprises the step of forwarding the varied, adaptable neighbor list to the wireless device. (Col.10; 21-40)

As per claim 9, Bonta teaches:

The method as in claim 1 wherein the wireless device is operable to enable the hand-off. (Col.10; 21-40)

As per claim 10, Bonta teaches:

The method as in claim 1 wherein the at least one base station on the varied list is operable to enable the hand-off. (Col.9; 31-51)

Claims 11, 16-17, 19-20, 28, 33-34, 36-37, 41, 43-44, 46, are the **method, system,** claims, corresponding to **method** claim 1 respectively, and rejected under the same rational set forth in connection with the rejection of claim 1 respectively, above.

As per claims 12, 18, 29, 35, 42, 45, Bonta teach the method as in claims 11, 17, 28, 34, 41, 44, respectively, further comprising the step of preventing said base station from handing-off said call when said traffic flow criteria does not meet said acceptable level. (e.g. threshold; Col.5; 20-28)

As per claims 47-49, Bonta teaches:

The method as in claims 20, 37, wherein the measurement step further comprises:

Measuring the level of one or more pilot signals, each pilot signal associated with a potential hand-off base station included in the neighbor list (e.g., Col.10; 21-40)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 2, 5-7, 13-15, 21, 24-26, 30-32, 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonta in view of Celedon et al. [US 20030190916].

As per claims 2, 21, 38, the above combinations teaches all the particulars of the claim except the step of varying the size of the neighbor list so that the size is set below an initial size to prevent a return to an overload traffic condition. However, Celedon teaches in an analogous art, that the method as in claims 1, 20, 37 respectively, further comprising the step of varying the size of the neighbor list so that the size is set below an initial size to prevent a return to an overload traffic condition. (Pg.2; 0024) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Bonta including the step of varying the size of the neighbor list so that the size is set below an initial size to prevent a return to an overload

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traffic condition in order to provide a method of optimizing neighbor lists by automatically removing and adding cells to overcome the disadvantages of the existing solutions.

As per claims 5-6, 24-25, 39-40, the above combinations teaches all the particulars of the claim except decreasing/increasing the size of the adaptable neighbor list as the traffic flow criteria worsens/improves. However, Celedon teaches in an analogous art, that the method as in claims 1, 20, 37 respectively, further comprising decreasing/increasing the size of the adaptable neighbor list as the traffic flow criteria worsens/improves. (Pg.2; 0028)

As per claims 7, 26, the above combinations teach all the particulars of the claim except the number of base stations included in the adaptable neighbor list of potential hand-off base stations is less than a maximum number of base stations included in an initial neighbor list. However, Celedon teaches in an analogous art, that the method as in claims 1, 20, respectively, wherein the number of base stations included in the adaptable neighbor list of potential hand-off base stations is less than a maximum number of base stations included in an initial neighbor list. (Pg.3; 0037)

As per claims 13-15, 30-32, the above combinations teach all the particulars of the claim except a value of the threshold may change over time. However, Celedon teaches in an analogous art, that the method as in claims 11, 28, respectively, wherein a value of the threshold may change over time. (i.e. threshold are variable; Pg.3; 0034)

Response to Remarks

Applicant's arguments filed on 07/23/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Relating to Claim 1:

In view of the fact, that **BONTA** teaches, "In other words, the first algorithm selects neighboring BTSs for inclusion in a handover neighbor list based on an evaluation of signal quality metrics collected at increasing distances radiating outward from a selected source BTS. Determining that a neighboring BTS is a handover candidate is accomplished by evaluating each neighboring BTS via the signal interference value threshold established via the first algorithm." (Bonta, Col.9; 9-15, Col.3; 28-44). Thus, it is evidently, the explanations above is directed to telecommunications systems and methods for handover candidate based on real time measurement of signal strength, anticipated by **BONTA**. Hence, it is believed that **BONTA** still teaches the claimed limitations.

The above arguments also recites for the other independent claims, consequently the response is the same explanation as set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Because the remaining claims depend directly/indirectly, from one of the independent claims discussed above, as a result the response is the same justification as set forth above.

With the intention of that explanation, it is believed and as enlighten above, the refutation are sustained.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharad Rampuria whose telephone number is (571) 272-7870. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. (8:30-5 EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dwayne Bost can be reached on (571) 272-7023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000 or

EBC@uspto.gov

/Sharad Rampuria/
Primary Examiner
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